

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 14063 051642Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 EB-08 CIAE-00
TRSE-00 COME-00 INR-07 OPIC-03 XMB-02 L-03 PRS-01
SCS-06 CA-01 SS-15 SP-02 AID-05 IGA-02 STR-05
/071 W

-----057854 051654Z /44

O 051519Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5232

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 14063

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BGEN, CASC, EINV, NI
SUBJECT: AIG CASE; LEFEVRE ARREST

REF: STATE 288736

1. AMBASSADOR EASUM ACCOMPANIED BY ECONOMIC COUNSELOR AND EMBOFF DISCUSSED AIG CASE AND LEFEVRE ARREST THIS MORNING WITH EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER GARBA. DIRECTOR ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT PETER AFOLABI, WHO HAS BEEN FOLLOWING CASE FOR MEA, WAS CALLED IN BY GARBA AT AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST SOON AFTER MEETING BEGAN.

2. AMBASSADOR MADE FOLLOWING POINTS ALONG LINES SUGGESTED IN REFTEL:

A) ALTHOUGH THE EMBASSY AND AIIC HAVE REPEATEDLY RAISED AIG CASE WITH THREE MINISTRIES (MEA, TRADE AND FINANCE), THE DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN LARGELY UNPRODUCTIVE IN SPITE OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF PERMSECS BELLO AND ALHAJI ABUBAKAR.

B) DURING NOVEMBER 7 AND 8 JOINT ECONOMIC TALKS, AIG CASE WAS PUT FORWARD BY US DELEGATION LEADER HORMATS AND WAS DISCUSSED SEVERAL TIMES IN PLENEARY AND INDIVIDUAL MINISTRY SESSIONS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 14063 051642Z

EMBASSY WAS PLEASED BY FMG POSITION THAT 'ROOM FOR NEGOTIATION EXISTS.' HOWEVER, CIC VALUATION OF SHARES AT NAIRA 2.30 AND DECEMBER 15 DEADLINE FOR EFFECTIVE SHARE TRANSFER REPRESENT UNFORTUNATE ENVIRONMENT FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS.

C) AIG IS CONSIDERING FILING AN EXPROPRIATION CLAIM WITH THE USG WHICH IF FOUND VALID WOULD RESULT IN AUTOMATIC ENFORCEMENT

OF CERTAIN TRADE AND FINANCIAL ACTIONS DETRIMENTAL TO US/NIGERIAN ECONOMIC CLIMATE (I.E., GONZALES AND HICKENLOOPER AMENDMENTS). IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT AIG MAY TAKE ITS CASE TO CONGRESS AND THE PRESS, WHICH WOULD HAVE A CONSIDERABLE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE US-NIGERIAN RELATIONSHIP.

D) IN ATTEMPT AVOID THESE UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCES, EMBASSY SEEKS MEA SUPPORT FOR EARLY MEETING BETWEEN AIG PRESIDENT GREENBURG AND FEDERAL COMMISSIONERS OF TRADE AND FINANCE. SUCH MEETING SHOULD BE HELD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, PREFERABLY BY DECEMBER 15. TO ASSURE THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS WOULD NOT BE HELD UNDER PRESSURE, THE EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT THE DECEMBER 15 DEADLINE BE ANNULLED OR SUSPENDED.

3. ALLEGING SURPRISE THAT THE AIG CASE HAD NOT BEEN RESOLVED, COMMISSIONER GARBA DIRECTED AFOLABI TO REQUEST ANNULMENT/ SUSPENSION OF THE DEADLINE AND TO ARRANGE PROMPT APPOINTMENTS WITH THE COMMISSIONERS OF TRADE AND FINANCE.

4. EMBASSY DELIVERING AIDE MEMOIRE TO AFOLABI TOMORROW WITH ABOVE AND OTHER POINTS AND WILL NOTIFY DEPARTMENT ASAP ON DATES OF PROPOSED GREENBURG MEETING WITH COMMISSIONERS.

5. RE LEFEVRE DETENTION, AMBASSADOR GAVE GARBA STRONG ORAL PRESENTATION AND SAID FORMAL NOTE WOULD BE DELIVERED TOMORROW. GARBA PROMISED TO EXPEDITE MEA REPLY. OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LAGOS 14063 051642Z

NOTE BEING CABLED. FULL TEXT ALONG WITH TEXT OF AIDE MEMOIRE, RE PARAGRAPH 4, BEING POUCHED.

3- 7.

?5

#4063

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LAGOS14063
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770450-0754
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771294/aaaadbps.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 76dc430c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 288736
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Jun-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 362767
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIG CASE; LEFEVRE ARREST
TAGS: BGEN, CASC, EINV, NI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/76dc430c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009